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Message Text

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14
ACTION SS-25

INFO OCT-01 ADP-00 SSO-00 NSCE-00 /026 W
---------- 095114
O 301036Z AUG 73
FM AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV
TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 9606

S E C R E T SECT 2 OF 2 TEL AVIV 6819

EXDIS

6. AS FOR REHOUSING AND VOCATIONAL TRAINING FOR REFUGEES, IT IS HARD TO SEE HOW ANYONE (INCLUDING EGYPTIAN GOVERNMENT) CAN QUARREL ABOUT THIS PART OF PROGRAM PER SE, IN VIEW OF WRETCHED LOT OF THESE PEOPLE AND POLITICAL VALUE OF BREAKING DOWN UNREAL REFUGEE MENTALITY AND GIVING REFUGEES STAKE IN NORMAL LIFE. WHETHER THIS CAN LEAD TO DAYAN'S DREAM OF STEADY REDUCTION OF TENSION IN OCCUPIED AREAS AND GREATER DESIRE ON PART OF POPULATION TO COOPERATE WITH ISRAEL, ENABLING ISRAELIS STEADILY TO INCREASE LOCAL POLITICAL AUTONOMY, SEEMS DOUBTFUL. ALTHOUGH DAYAN'S VISION OF GRADUAL INTERTWINING OF DESTINIES OF ISRAELI AND PALESTINIAN ARAB PEOPLES IN THIS FASHION IS COMMENDABLE, WE JUDGE IT TO BE GENERATIONS AWAY IF ATTAINABLE AT ALL, AND NOT
SOMETHING LIKELY TO COME ABOUT UNDER CONDITIONS OF MILITARY OCCUPATION, NO MATTER HOW BENIGN.

7. YAMIT. BUILDING OF CITY WITH ROUGHLY 2,000 ISRAELI INHABITANTS BY 1977 IN NORTHEASTERN SINAI WILL CONSTITUTE HIGHLY VISIBLE AND SERIOUS OBSTACLE TO OPENING OF ISRAELI-EGYPTIAN NEGOTIATIONS, EVEN THOUGH TOWN WILL BE CONSIDERABLY SMALLER THAN DAYAN WANTED, AND WILL NOT FOR TIME BEING HAVE ADJACENT DEEPWATER PORT DAYAN SOUGH. DOVES HAVE SUGGESTED THERE IS QUESTION AS TO WHETHER THE 2,000 SETTLERS CAN BE ENLISTED BY 1977, BUT WE DOUBT THIS WILL BE DIFFICULT, ESPECIALLY NOW THAT NEW SOVIET IMMIGRANTS ARE BEING PLACED THERE (SEPTEL). CHARITABLE VIEW OF YAMIT IS THAT ITS CONSTRUCTION SHOULD ENABLE ISRAEL POLITICALLY TO (A) LET GAZA STRIP BE ARAB-RUN UNDER FINAL SETTLEMENT, AND (B) RETURN ALL THE REST OF SINAI (LESS SHARM EL-SHEIKH) AND CORRIDOR TO IT) TO EGYPT.
SECRET

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BUT WE ASSUME THIS CHARITABLE INTERPRETATION WOULD HAVE NO IMPACT WHATEVER IN CAIRO.

8. CONCLUSION. ABOVE PROGRAM ADDS UP TO TWO NEW DEPARTURES--

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YAMIT AND PRIVATE LAND PURCHASES-- PLUS ADDITION OF CONSIDERABLE MOMENTUM TO EXISTING ISRAELI PROGRAMS IN TERRITORIES. IN OUR VIEW, PROGRAM ONCE IMPLEMENTED WILL MOVE ISRAEL CLOSE TO POINT OF NO RETURN DOWN PATH OF ANNEXATION. EVEN IF ISRAEL WILL STOP SHORT OF EVENTUAL ANNEXATION, INCREASINGLY VISIBLE ISRAELI RELATIONSHIP WITH TERRITORIES MAY GROW INTO SUCH A POLITICAL EMBARRASSMENT TO ARAB STATES TO WHICH THESE TERRITORIES BELONG THAT WHATEVER HOPE THER IS FOR STARTIG MIDDLE EAST NEGOTIATING PROCESS MAY SLIP AWAY.
KEATING

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: Z
Capture Date: 15 APR 1999
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: n/a
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 30 AUG 1973
Decaption Date: 28 MAY 2004
Decaption Note: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: golinofr
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1973TELAV00002
Document Source: ADS
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: N/A
Errors: n/a
Film Number: n/a
From: TEL AVIV
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1973/newtext/t19730870/dcecsaav.tel
Line Count: 67
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE
Office: n/a
Original Classification: SECRET
Original Handling Restrictions: EXDIS
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators:
Previous Classification: SECRET
Previous Handling Restrictions: EXDIS
Reference: n/a
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: golinofr
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags: ANOMALY
Review Date: 10 DEC 2001
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <10-Dec-2001 by martinml>; APPROVED <15-Jan-2002 by golinofr>
Review Markings:

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US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
30 JUN 2005

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: <DBA CORRECTED> gwr 19990421
Subject: REHOUSING AND VOCATIONAL TRAINING FOR REFUGEES
TAGS: SREF
To: STATE
Type: TE
Markings: Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 30 JUN 2005

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